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'Red spy network in U.S. is left headless'

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THE expulsion of Soviet spies this month has "decapitated" the Soviet intelligence network in the U.S., a senior administration official said yesterday.

"There is no management left. This is a decapitation of the Soviet intelligence network in the United States," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

He spoke only hours after Moscow announced that five more U.S. diplomats would be expelled from the USSR.

Kremlin officials also said that 260 Soviet citizens who work as low-level employees — cooks, drivers and maids — for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow will be "withdrawn." The Soviet action came after the U.S. on Tuesday ordered the expulsion of 55 Soviet diplomats from Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

The U.S. has not yet announced whether it will retaliate for yesterday's actions, but a senior administration official told The Post that the White House "will have to do something."

"Obviously, they have just countered our counter," the official said. "We will have to study that and see what we can do, and we will have a measured response."

Officials said that GRU station chiefs responsible for military intelligence, as well as KGB agents and their deputies have been expelled from San Francisco, New York, and Washington.

The KGB "line officers" responsible for gathering scientific and technical information, political and economic intelligence, and penetrating the CIA and the Pentagon, have also been expelled, along with their deputies.

Others booted out include code clerks and technical officers assigned to monitoring telephone calls and other communications.